



Governance Excellence

Integrity Commissioner and Ethics Advisor

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 8, 2021, Office of the City Clerk report OCC00841, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

REPORT

Establishment of the Integrity Office

On September 5, 2018, City Council approved the hiring of Edmonton's first Integrity Commissioner and Ethics Advisor. Together, their positions form an independent Integrity Office, which is focused on supporting elected officials to maintain the high level of integrity that they and the public expect, as well as receiving complaints under the Council Code of Conduct.

Role of the Integrity Commissioner

The Integrity Commissioner is responsible for:

- Receiving and investigating potential breaches of the Council Code of Conduct
- Working with the Ethics Advisor to provide proactive services to Council

Jamie Pytel is the City's first Integrity Commissioner. Ms. Pytel has been a practicing lawyer for 26 years in both corporate and private practice. Her work has included investigations, conflict resolution, development of codes of conduct, and governance and external whistleblower services. Ms. Pytel also has a Master's in Business Administration and is a member of the International Association of Workplace Investigators.

Council Orientation - Governance Excellence

Role of the Ethics Advisor

The Ethics Advisor is responsible for:

- Providing legal advice to Councillors regarding individual ethics and policy, as well as provides educational programs and materials
- Working with the Integrity Commissioner to provide proactive services to Council

Brent Rathgeber is the City's first Ethics Advisor. Brent has been a practicing lawyer since 1991 and his areas of expertise include alternative dispute resolution, mediation, employment law, and democratic governance. Brent was also a public official for 11 years as a Member of Parliament and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

ATTACHMENT

1. Bylaw 18483 - Council Code of Conduct